



Elm Grove NEWS- INDEPENDENT



Vol. 9 No. 3

Serving Elm Grove, Wisconsin & Neighboring Communities

May 2021

Freedom of the Press is Essential. Community News Matters.



Elm Grove Woman's Club members who volunteered at the COVID-19 vaccination clinics include: (On bench, Left to right) **Jennifer Morris, Janet Day, Ursula Raad, and Karla Florance;** (Standing: Left to right) **Christine Murr, Kathe Fleming, Jennifer Stuckert, Gaylene Townsley, Beth Just, Jodi Scott, Betty Pawson, Lynn Sileno, Alice Hirt, Lisa Becker, Kerstin Lanser, Lisa Bro, Julie Di Fonzo, Rita Massart, and Laura Kult.** Not pictured: **Dorothy Beck, Suzanne Belson, Laurie Hanson, Marilyn Henning, Marlene Jernberg, Cherie Lanthier, Sara Megal, Heather Mueller, Amanda Schomburg, Nicci Sternitsky, Annie Weisman, and Patti Winter.**

Village EMS Personnel, Local Residents Serve Their Community

Hundreds vaccinated at series of local COVID-19 clinics

By Jennifer Morris

In January 2021, Elm Grove Police, EMTs, and Firefighters started receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations from Elm Grove Emergency Services under the guidance of **Dr. Jon Robinson.** When people, age 65 and older, were eligible to be vaccinated, the Elm Grove Emergency Medical Service partnered with the Elm Grove Woman's Club (EGWC) to staff a vaccination clinic for Elm Grove residents.

The purpose of the clinics was to ensure that Village residents, age 65 and older, would have easy access to the vaccine. A community-based clinic offered many advantages: short lines, limited waiting time, short walking distances, and free parking. Many of the volunteers, as well as the patients knew each other. Following vaccination, the observation room became a place to

reconnect with neighbors that they hadn't seen in the past year. Unlike many of the large vaccination sites, we were able to effectively register appointments and put our vaccine allotment to good use without waste. **Sonia Stowe,** a paramedic administering vaccinations, said "it was so exciting to see how happy people were to be getting their vaccine. One person literally danced out of the room."

(See COVID-19 Clinics - Page 10)



(ELM GROVE) In lieu of the annual parade, please join the Elm Grove community on Memorial Day to honor our local veterans and fallen service members with a "Field of Flags" tribute to be located on the North soccer fields at Elm Grove Village Park.

Approximately 2,700 flags will be displayed to represent the 26,779 Wisconsin soldiers who have lost their lives in service to our country.

The Elm Grove Junior Guild, the event's sponsor, invites you to "Bring your family, sport your patriotic apparel, and enjoy an on-your-own walk/roll/ride/stroll around the park." The "Field of Flags" and other tributes will be available for viewing from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 31.

The Elm Grove Junior Guild promotes healthy behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19. Participants are encouraged to avoid gathering in large crowds, maintain a social distance and wear a mask when social distancing is not possible.



Boy Scouts of America Troop 156 Volunteers (Adults, 3rd row, Left to right) **Rob King** (Scout Master 156G), **Mark Ehlinger** (Committee Chair 156B, 156G), **John Kuenzle** (Scout Master 156B), **Mariko King** (Assistant Scout Master 156G) and scouts.

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Waukesha County News

An Inside Look at Waukesha County Government

By Thomas Michalski, Waukesha County Supervisor – District 8 tmichalski@waukeshacounty.gov

At the recent Elm Grove Trustee Candidate forum, there was a discussion about the tax levy and the state law requiring any increases to the levy be limited to the size of net new construction. There were also several comments that the Village needed to live within its means. It was suggested that the budget needed to be looked at with a scalpel, or possibly we needed fundraising events.

I recognize there is a lot of misunderstanding about the tax levy, how the state law regulates the tax levy, how that impacts the Village budget and your property tax. I’d like to try to help everyone understand how the process works.

On your property tax bill, there are several tax-collecting entities. Each one is treated separately with its own tax levy. The list of these tax collecting entities is Waukesha County, Waukesha County Technical College, Elmbrook School system, and depending on where you live, Brookfield or Elm Grove municipality. In addition to the tax levies, your property tax bill also contains separate fees for garbage and sewer. These are called utilities.

I will just focus on Elm Grove, but you could substitute any name from the tax-collecting entity list without modifying anything I’m about to say.

Elm Grove’s tax levy is the total of everyone’s individual property tax.

For 2021, Elm Grove’s Tax Levy was \$7,303,411. One of the first steps in determining your property tax is the assessment process, where the Village determines the value of every property in the Village. Each individual property is ranked by its current value. There are several interim steps, but in the end, your tax bill (without fees) is your portion of the tax levy proportional to the dollar value of

your home relative to every other house in Elm Grove.

For about the past 20 years, the State has used net-new construction to limit all levy increases, directly linking the budget to the actual growth of the Village. The State does the calculation by totaling the net new construction value, then dividing that number by the value without the new construction (also called the equalized value). The result of that calculation is a percentage that is the maximum allowable increase to the levy. This year, Elm Grove’s allowable tax levy increase of 1.69%, which was larger than usual due to the Horizon Senior Living apartments opening. The total increase in this year’s levy is \$121,313.

The critical point to understand is the “value of net new construction”. When someone tears down a \$300,000 home to build a \$500,000 home, the net new construction is \$200,000. In a community as built out as Elm Grove with an equalized value of more than \$1.25 billion, it would take a lot of tear-downs to significantly impact the State’s defined calculation that limits an increase in the tax levy.

Think about an Elm Grove home that recently removed its beautiful stone façade, replacing it with different but also gorgeous stone. While that was a costly process, the net change in the house’s value was nominal, if anything.

I’d like to suggest a thought experiment to explain the impact the State’s law has on the Village’s budget and your property tax. Let’s imagine that since the creation of the law, the following improbable situation has occurred; there has been no new construction in Elm Grove. Let’s further suppose that no one has done any updates to their home. No additions, kitchen or bathroom update, no patio update, and that



there has been no ownership change. In this unlikely situation, the State’s formula would have allowed no increase to the tax levy at all. Your tax bill would have remained unchanged, and the Village’s budget would have remained a fixed amount.

Inflation may have increased the value of your home, but it would have also increased the value of every other house in the Village by the same rate. So, your home would have stayed in the same position relative to every other home. The only thing that would have changed is the multiplier used to calculate every one’s property tax. The equalized value of the Village would have gone up because of inflation, but no-new construction means the levy is unchanged. If you imagine that inflation caused the value of your home to double over these years, the rate you paid per thousand of home value would have to drop by half to keep the tax levy and the Village’s budget constant.

By the way, this method has been used by every tax-collecting unit for years. Every year they proudly report that the rate they charge you per thousand has gone down, while quietly the tax you pay has gone up. Unless you live in that improbable Village, I described.

That brings us back to Elm Grove, and while it is not the improbable Village I described, it isn’t far off. Elm Grove is almost entirely built out. The housing stock is, for the most part, unchanged and aging. The State’s formula does not adjust to reflect inflation and thus precludes any actual increase in the property tax rate and, by extension, the Village budget. The result is that the Village is in a perpetual dollar squeeze.

The Village of Elm Grove is like an elderly individual, who for the past 20 years, has been living on a fixed income. The State has fixed the Village’s income, yet the Villages expenses continue to grow annually with inflation. The Village has cut and cut, but the bills for the necessities increase with inflation. We would have to have a lot of beer parties to raise enough money to fill that growing gap.

The way out isn’t with fundraising or fine-tuning the budget. There are only four ways to get ahead of this financial squeeze. The first two of them are only slightly more likely than my improbable Village, but the last two are within Elm Grove’s control.

- Get the State to change its law
- Have a referendum to raise the levy (referendum needs to pass by two-thirds of the voters)
- Remove something big from the Levy (Transportation utility)
- Grow the Village (Downtown Masterplan & SSND)

These last two options not only break the downward financial spiral but also provide the opportunity to breathe new life into the Village center. If done wisely, it will create a vibrant business area and raise the bar on Village life.

Village Update

By Neil Palmer, President – Village of Elm Grove npalmer@elmgrovewi.org

It has been a busy spring in Elm Grove. Thank you to the volunteers and Village staff who were kept busy all day during the Spring election. Congratulations to **Kristina Sayas** who won the open Trustee spot and to **Katy Cornell** and **Tom Michalski** who were both re-elected. I also want to thank voters for my re-election as Village President.

The Elm Grove Junior Guild is finalizing plans for a Memorial Day celebration to honor all those who have served their country. (See story – Page 1.)

A successful controlled burn of Village Park naturalized habitat areas took place in April. An interesting video of the burn activity is available on the Village website: www.elmgrovewi.org. The prescribed burns reduce dead and dry plant matter, stimulate native grasses and wildflower growth while improving food sources for wildlife.

Residents have been busy on home improvements this spring, but a few are running into problems with the Village regulations by starting work without contacting the Village Zoning and Planning Administrator, **Tom Harrigan**. Building without permits or in violation of property setback requirements can create

an expensive problem. Please remember to call Tom at (262) 782-6700 before you start any work.

The Public Works and Utilities Committee continues to work on possible changes to the existing Village ordinance forbidding obstruction in Village road rights of way. Right of way vision clearance is an important part of traffic safety and most rights of way are an important part of the stormwater management system. The committee trying to craft language which can allow some landscape plantings without creating problems.

Village Public Works and Utilities Committee, Building Board and Planning Commission continue to evaluate numerous aspects of the proposed redevelopment plan for the School Sisters of Notre Dame campus. Visit the Village website, click on “Community Projects” in the right corner of the home page and then select the School Sisters of Notre Dame Redevelopment tab. You will find all the information created to date from the developer, Village consultants and others. A running calendar of topics being considered by different committees, boards, or commissions is available. Please note that all meetings are “live streamed” for viewing remotely on a computer.

The Village is expected to receive as much as \$606,000 in federal COVID relief funds based on the latest information but regulations on what any funds can be used for is not yet available. Once spending rules are issued and timelines for receipt of funds is finalized the Village Board will evaluate how best to use the money.

The Village has received a proposal to establish a “Beer Garden” in the park this summer and the Recreation Committee recommended that the Board consider the proposal. Village staff is gathering additional information for a Board discussion.

The Ad hoc pathways committee continues to make progress with the completion of a ranking survey by committee members. Village engineers at Reukert & Mielke are being asked to provide more refined pathway construction estimates based on actual pathway route topographic features. All Village Board members support the effort to make the Village more walkable. The Ad hoc committee will be considering the pricing data when available and the Board is expected to discuss pathway funding as part of a planned Transportation Utility discussion aimed at improving Village roads.

Election Day Described, Poll Workers Thanked

By Michelle Luedtke
Clerk – Village of Elm Grove

Hello from the Village Clerk!

The April 6th, 2021 Election was more difficult than the Presidential in November! We had 12 stations and 25 poll workers on Election Day working mostly ½ day shifts.

A special **thank you** to those poll workers for their time and efforts - **Audrey Szews, Beth Rousseau, Cathy Rakers, Christine Krause, Dave DeAngelis, Diane Schlosser, Doreen Wiener, Erik Fink, Joanne Clauser, John Schlosser, John Stone, Julie DiFonzo, Julie Van Cleave, June Moberly, Mark DiFonzo, Maureen Sertich, Nancy Ferguson, Nora Thoresen, Rachel Corwin, Ron Klassen, Ruth Koehler, Sandy Pommerening, Shelby Hader, Thomas Harrigan, and Ursula Raad.**

The very beginning of the day was slower than usual, but when it picked up around 9:00 a.m. – it did not stop for the rest of the election. The wait time was between 10-15 minutes consistently. The poll workers were so busy, they were not able to balance the numbers or the books until 8:00 p.m. After we closed, the poll workers began comparing the poll books to make sure both copies matched, reviewing all ballots for write-ins, and signing paperwork for the day. They were out of the building by 9:30 p.m.

(See ELECTION – Page 4)

Past Times

The Bungalow and Our Lady of the Elms

By Michele Levandoski / mlevandoski@ssnd.org
Archivist, School Sisters of Notre Dame North American Archives

Mother Caroline Friess, superior of the SSND in North America, purchased property in Elm Grove for the purpose of establishing a convent, orphanage and farm. The size of the property and its location also made it an ideal spot to care for sisters living with tuberculosis (TB) and psychiatric disorders.

TB was a common disease in the 19th century. It was highly contagious and had a high mortality rate, especially among young people. The disease was common in cities, where crowded living conditions made it easy for the disease to spread. The Milwaukee Motherhouse was a fertile breeding ground for the disease with its large numbers of young women living together in close quarters.

There was no cure for TB, but many experts believed that fresh air, rest and a healthy diet could help those living with the illness. Elm Grove was an ideal place to send sisters with TB, because it was a rural setting and the farm provided an abundance of fresh, healthy foods. By 1874, it was common for sisters living with TB to be sent to Elm Grove to rest and recuperate.

In 1921, the decision was made to build an interprovincial TB sanitarium in Elm Grove. The building, known as the Bungalow, provided care for sisters from each of the four provinces in North America. The building included patient rooms and a chapel, which allowed sisters to continue their daily prayers, while restricting contact with those who did not have the disease. The Bungalow opened in June 1921.

Our Lady of the Elms

Around 1904, the congregation purchased a piece of property located a short distance from the main property in Elm Grove. Here, the sisters established Our Lady of the Elms (OLE), a home for sisters living with psychiatric disorders. Prior to the establishment of OLE, sisters living with

mental illness were sent to psychiatric institutions or were housed on the fourth floor of Visitation convent in Elm Grove. The new facility allowed the congregation to care of its sisters, by providing a secure facility that allowed the patients to live in community with each other.

By the 1930s, the facility had grown to include three houses and a chapel. Despite these additions, the number of patients continued to grow and some of the buildings fell into disrepair. In 1944, plans were made for a new building that would include occupational and hydro therapy departments. Unfortunately, the project was scrapped, because of labor and supply shortages caused by the war.

In 1954, plans were drawn up for a 50-bed interprovincial facility that would be attached to the Bungalow. The property at OLE was sold and patients living in the Bungalow were moved to the Mankato province. The Bungalow was converted into office space for the nursing staff.

The building, known as Holy Family Infirmary (HFI), was completed in November 1955. Within a week 41 patients moved into the facility and a few months later sisters from other provinces were moved to the infirmary. HFI was fully staffed by sisters, including an administrator, occupational therapists, cooks and nurses, who were trained in psychiatric nursing.

The property at Elm Grove proved versatile and allowed the congregation to adapt its use to fit the needs of the sisters. The establishment of the Bungalow and Our Lady of the Elms made it possible for sisters living with tuberculosis and psychiatric disorders to live in community and continue living their religious vocation, while caring for their unique needs. The construction of Holy Family Infirmary started a building boom at Elm Grove, as the property was adapted to meet the ever-changing needs of the congregation.



Our Lady of the Elms at Notre Dame of Elm Grove.



Bungalow at Notre Dame of Elm Grove, 1921

Coloring for Kids (and Adults)!

HAPPY

MOTHER'S

DAY



A Reflection: Life as a School Sister of Notre Dame

By Sister Laura Jean Spaeth

Looking back, it feels as if I was born a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND). Being the ninth of 12 children, was like growing up in a community. In addition, my oldest sister was an SSND, as were most of my teachers, grade school through college. I grew up on a farm near West Bend, Wisconsin, which thrived on parents of deep faith rooted in reverence and care for the earth, dependence upon God, to say nothing of a strong work ethic. These are strong SSND values as well.

Being an international congregation in more than 30 different countries, stretched this shy farm girl into 25 of them, through various positions. SSND struggles for unity and harmony worldwide, educating and promoting the values of the Gospel and the Church's social teachings.

We are educators in the broadest sense, in all we are and do, no matter where we are.

Election (Continued from Page 3)

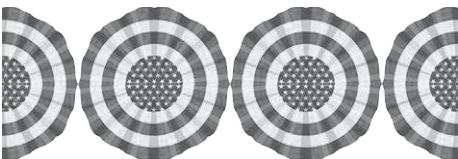
We initially planned for 35 poll workers and were going to have it split into two rooms as it has been in the past. After reaching out to those on our list, almost everyone was taking a much-needed vacation during the spring break timeframe. We were forced to consolidate. Thanks to the residents for your patience and good will.

For more information about elections, please visit the Elections page on our website: www.elmgrovewi.org. If you want to know more about the process, I encourage you to sign up to work an election! We will see you in 2022!

Election Day stats:

- Registered Voters: 5,057
- New Registrations: 13
- Votes Counted: 2,344
- Percent Turnout: 46%
- Absentee Ballots Returned: 763

(15% of the 5,057 registered voters voted Absentee; 32.5% of the 2,344 votes counted were via Absentee ballots.)



Calendar of Events – May 2021

Saturday – MAY 1

- **Shred Day**, sponsored by the Elm Grove Business Association, 9 a.m. to Noon at the Park & Shop parking lot, 13425 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove.

Monday – MAY 3

- **Elm Grove Plan Commission meeting:** 6 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room. Open to the Public. Agenda: www.elmgrovetownship.org. Watch online: www.elmgrovetownship.org/656/live-stream.

Tuesday – MAY 4

- **100+ Women Who Care – Milwaukee Metro West Drive-up / walk-up meeting:** 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at 13230 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove. (See story – Page 6)
- **Elm Grove Building Board meeting:** 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall. Agenda: www.elmgrovetownship.org.

Thursday – MAY 6

- **Elmbrook Garden Club meeting:** 6 p.m., Brookfield Public Library. Call Laura at (414) 614-6489 for information. (See story – Page 6)



Friday – MAY 7

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club meeting:** 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.—Zoom Online Program: Amy Dorman, “Milwaukee REP” Contact: markzalewski8803@gmail.com <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club meeting:** 9:30 a.m. Speaker: Alex Chou, “Changes in Residential Real Estate Since the Pandemic”. elmgrovekiwanis@gmail.com

Sunday – MAY 9



Thursday – MAY 13

- **Elm Grove Plan Commission meeting:** 6 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room. Open to the Public. Agenda: www.elmgrovetownship.org.

Friday – MAY 14

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club meeting:** 7:00-8:00 a.m.—Zoom Online Program: Linda Edelstein, Del Wilson, & Betsy Corry, “Milwaukee Youth Arts Center (MYAC)” Contact: markzalewski8803@gmail.com <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club meeting:** 9:30 a.m. Speaker: Barbara Felix, “Problems and Solutions for Dyslexia” elmgrovekiwanis@gmail.com

Saturday – MAY 15 ARMED FORCES DAY

- **Elm Grove Woman’s Club presents “Springtime in the Grove”.** (See AD; Story – Page 6.)

Tuesday MAY 18

- **Elm Grove Building Board meeting:** 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall. Agenda: www.elmgrovetownship.org.

Friday – MAY 21

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club** Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m.—Zoom Online Program: Speaker TBA, “Federal Bureau of Investigation” Contact: markzalewski8803@gmail.com <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club** Private club luncheon. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com.

Monday – MAY 24

- **Elm Grove Board of Trustees meeting:** 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall Court Room. Open to the Public. Agenda: www.elmgrovetownship.org. Watch online at: www.elmgrovetownship.org/656/live-stream.

Friday – MAY 28

- **Elmbrook Rotary Club** Meeting: 7:00-8:00 a.m.—Zoom Online Program: Ellyn Lem, “Perspectives on Aging” Contact: markzalewski8803@gmail.com <http://www.elmbrookrotary.org>
- **Elm Grove Kiwanis – Golden K Club** Meeting: 9:30 a.m. Speaker: Sister Terri Maciejewski, Topic: “Thrift Shop at St. Mary’s Church”. kiwaniselmgrove@gmail.com.

Monday – MAY 31 MEMORIAL DAY

Village Hall Closed

“FIELD OF FLAGS” display 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Elm Grove Village Park. (See story – Page 1)



COMING EVENTS... Versiti Blood Drives in Elm Grove *Donations are urgently needed!*

- **JUNE 15, 2021** – Tonawanda Elementary School, new gymnasium, 13605 Underwood River Parkway. Appointments available from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Make appointments at: <https://bit.ly/3toFLTR>
- **AUGUST 11, 2021** - Tonawanda Elementary School, new gymnasium, 13605 Underwood River Parkway. Appointments available from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Make appointments at: <https://bit.ly/2QseYTk>



We're Celebrating Spring!
All are welcome, admission is free!
Saturday, May 15th, 10 am-3 pm

Fine Art, Gifts, Delectable Treats & More
Homemade Baked Goods, Colorful Planters,
Grilled Sandwiches and Cool Beverages

Special Exhibit of Student Art
EGWC Art Scholarship Competition Entries

13885 Watertown Plank Road, Elm Grove



Spring Leasing Specials
Available for a Limited Time

ELM GROVE
HEIGHTS

OPEN HOUSE
Friday, May 7th 3PM - 6PM



1 & 2 BEDROOM LUXURY SENIOR APARTMENTS

for a private tour, please call
262-894-1520

13040 W. Bluemound Road, Elm Grove
www.elmgroveheights.com



Clubs & Organizations



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Garden Club

Lynne Ehnert, president of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, demonstrates spring floral designs during an Elmbrook Garden Club meeting at the Brookfield Public Library.

Elmbrook Garden Club News

By Rose B. Heald

The Elmbrook Garden Club (EBGC) enjoyed a Fresh Spring Floral Design demonstration at its April 1 meeting, held at the Brookfield Public Library. **Lynne Ehnert**, President of the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, demonstrated floral design with an Easter theme using fresh spring flowers, including daffodils, tulips and roses, arranged in vases of various sizes and shapes.

In celebration of Arbor Day, EBGC members joined with the Village of Elm Grove and students of Tonawanda Elementary School on April 27 to plant 6 deciduous trees at the school’s newly developed nature center. EBGC donated \$250 toward purchase of the trees.

The EBGC’s May meeting will be held at the Elmbrook Nature Center with a talk by **Greg Wolfe**, Elmbrook Schools Naturalist.

The EBGC meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Brookfield Public Library. The Club’s project focus for 2020-2021 is protecting the honey bee population by encouraging gardening with pollinator friendly plants. EBGC’s primary purpose is to aid in the conservation of all natural resources and to participate in public movements for the protection of the environment in the State of Wisconsin.

For information on becoming an EBGC member, please contact **Laura Skoff**, Membership Chairman, at (414) 614-6489.

Springtime in the Grove Art Festival – May 15th

(ELM GROVE) Everyone is invited to enjoy a special treat at the Elm Grove Woman’s Club, 13885 Watertown Plank Road, on Saturday, May 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It’s the Springtime in the Grove Art Festival offering a selection of art, gifts, collectables, delectable treats and more. Admission is free for this outdoor event. Check out a bountiful sale of bakery and colorful planters. Stay for a delicious lunch hot off the grill accompanied by a cool beverage.

Not to be missed, stroll through the indoor exhibit of student art entered in the Elm Grove Woman’s Club’s annual Art Scholarship Competition. Cast your vote for the People’s Choice Award and stay for the Awards Ceremony at 2:30 p.m. Scholarship Awards include a



\$2,000 award given to the winning 12th grade student, a \$500 Art Grant given to a student from grades 9-11 and a \$250 School Supply Grant to each school of the winning students to be used for classroom art supplies.

A percentage of the proceeds will help fund the addition of a much-needed handicap ramp for the Woman’s Club.

Kiwanis Key Clubs Provide Student Leadership Training

(ELM GROVE) Brookfield Central High School Kiwanis Key Club members attended the annual Wisconsin-Upper Michigan District Key Club Convention virtually on February 5 – 7, 2021. The BCHS Key Club is the largest Kiwanis Key Club in the district with more than 300 student members. Kiwanis Key Clubs provide service and support for projects in their respective communities and emphasis the promotion of leadership training for high school students that also encourages leadership roles at the club level, the district level and the international level. The 2019/2020 goal for service hours was 10,000 hours. Service hours for 2020/2021 were impacted by the pandemic.

Several BCHS students received recognition during the Convention. **Jana Gharia** received Endorsement for International Key Club Office and the District Service Award. For the April

2021 - March 2022 Key Club year BCHS students were named to district level student offices. **Kevin Niu** is District Governor. **Sarah Balding** is District Secretary-Treasurer. **Opal Sharma** is the District Outreach Coordinator. **Arisha Sobhani** is the Division 8 Lieutenant Governor. **Haley Hummel** received the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Outstanding Junior Award. **Sneha Sil** is the Impromptu Essay Contest Winner.

The Elm Grove Golden K Kiwanis Club, which sponsors the Brookfield Key Club, received the Outstanding Kiwanis Support Award. **Lenny Johnson**, Kiwanis Advisor to the Key Club, received the Outstanding Kiwanis Advisor Award.

(Students discuss their Key Club activities in Young Writers & Reporters – Page 10.)



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Rotary Club

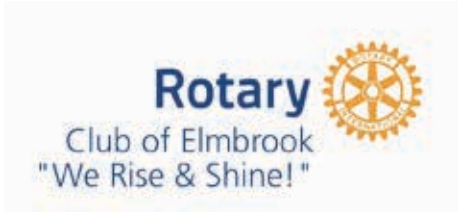
Linda Garcia (center) and her parents joined former Brookfield Mayor **Kate Bloomberg** and her daughter **Amy Sandlass** in Antigua, Guatemala a few years ago to celebrate Linda’s high school graduation. Linda’s concentration was Business Administration, one of a handful of specialties open to high school students, as studies are heavily “trade” oriented.

Rotary Grant Provides Help to Guatemalan Students

By Erik Moeser

Elmbrook Rotary Club wasn’t able to send a team of members, along with “friends and family”, to Guatemala this past February as it has done since 2012 because of C-19 issues. Instead, the club applied for a grant from Rotary District 6270, representing 54 clubs in southeastern Wisconsin, to provide help for 7th grade kids at risk of dropping out of school, now particularly difficult to deal with due to the pandemic.

Elmbrook Rotary was able to provide 10 LG tablets with pre-loaded materials and internet capability, to a new “Resource Center” in a remote village, designed in cooperation with Common Hope, an NGO based in the World Heritage City of Antigua which promotes literacy and school attendance through work in housing, health, nutrition, and social services. The tablets are used to enable contactless interventions, enabling their staff to encourage students to remain in school, and work with the families to improve their circumstances to allow that, without the risk of in-person visits. Once the family decisions are made, the tablets can



be provided to another student, and so forth.

The issue is and has been economic in nature. A school age child can be seen as an asset in “third world” areas in a country like Guatemala, working in fields to increase the family income. That leads to a cycle of poverty, which can be broken by efforts such as are made by Common Hope, which has resulted in more than 3,000 high school graduates in the years it has been active. In Guatemala, the average level of school completion is roughly 5 years, and illiteracy in some remote indigenous villages can be 60% or more.

For more information on how you can help, contact any Elmbrook Rotarian or log into the web site: elmbrookrotary.org.

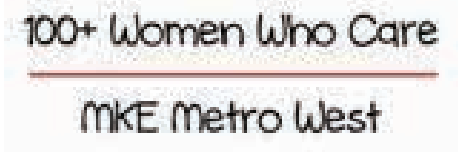
100+ Women Who Care – Milwaukee Metro West Charity Giving Update, Meeting Announced

By 100+WWC-MMW Leadership Team

Our giving circle has maintained our charity giving during the past year. In spite of the absence of two in-person meetings and the challenges we have all faced, 2020 didn’t stop our group from donating \$33,920 to local charities. The generosity of our wonderful members is a great testament to our mission of ***Making a Difference*** in our local communities. We are excited to see what the 2021 year will bring and the non-profits we will help. With the continuing concern of COVID and, until we are all more comfortable with gathering in person, the leaders of 100+ Women Who Care-MKE Metro West have decided to hold a DRIVE UP/WALK UP option for our next meeting.

The event will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the business across from O’Donoghue’s in Elm Grove (the former Ray’s Auto Service at 13230 Watertown Plank Rd).

Member votes will be counted and the chosen charity will be announced by email,




on Facebook, and on our website later in the evening after the vote. Donations can be made at the DRIVE UP/WALK UP or mailed in/online.

REDGEN (the chosen charity and recipient of \$9,607.72 from the September 2020 Zoom Meeting) will have an update presentation available on our website soon. Again, congratulations, REDGEN, for the wonderful work you do to help students, especially during these stressful times of the pandemic!

Our organization is simple to join and simple to donate. We will have commitment forms on hand at our DRIVE UP/WALK UP for any community members who would like to join us. Visit our website for more information. www.100wwcmkemetrowest.org



Read All About It!



Library News and Programs

May 2021

13600 Juneau Blvd., Elm Grove, WI 53122
262-782-6717 / elmgrovelibrary.org

- Current Library Hours**
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Monday: 10 AM - 4 PM | • Thursday: 10 AM – 8:30 PM |
| • Tuesday: 10 AM - 4 PM | • Friday: 10 AM - 4 PM |
| • Wednesday: 10 AM - 4 PM | • Saturday: 10 AM - 1 P |

Planning Your Disney Vacation
Wednesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m. Online via Zoom

Everything you need to know to plan your 2021 Disney vacation! Rebecca Mitchell is a travel agent who specializes in Disney vacations, and the host of "Rebecca Enchanted," a Disney planning podcast. Her presentation will discuss the different stages for putting together your dream Disney vacation, as well as how to get the most for your money when taking a trip to the “happiest place on earth.” With plenty of time for Q&A!

Advance registration required to receive the meeting link. Visit elmgrovelibrary.org to register.



The 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic, World War I and Wilson
Wednesday, May 26, 1:00 p.m. Elm Grove Village Park

The year is 1918. Thousands of United States troops are involved in World War I and millions will die. Stateside, an additional war is forming, “influenza” and it will take millions more lives. President Woodrow Wilson must make a choice: quarantine the troops as the war rages on, or to send them over to win the war and hope for the best.



In this program, historian Jim Gibbons takes you on a roller-coaster ride through the 1910s, including the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic and World War I, describing the twists, turns, fear, mourning, and joy of a decade that paved the way for the excitement of the Roaring '20s.

NOTE: This program will be held outside the library on the west side of the building. Please bring your own chairs, as they will not be provided. Attendees are encouraged to wear a face covering and practice social distancing. Free to attend. No registration needed.



Books that read out loud!

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Wonderbooks are a new kind of audiobook. Every Wonderbook is a print book with a ready-to-play audiobook inside. Kids can press play to read along with their favorite books and then switch to learning mode for literacy learning and fun. They are available to check out at the library, and new titles are added all the time!

News’ Hounds

& other beloved creatures



Adopt a Pet at the Elmbrook Humane Society
By Heather Gehrke

Think of **Bandit**, **Spooky**, and **Tony** as the three musketeers as they have spent their lives together and are now in search of a new home where they can continue to. They found their way to us when their owner had to move into a nursing home. All three are quite affectionate and friendly. Ear scratches, cozy beds and blankets, laying on laps, and sharing their beautiful purrs with you are just a few of their favorite things!

If you would like to know more about this bonded trio, call 262-782-9261 or visit <https://ebhs.org/cats>.

"Green" is Good!

Ideas courtesy of The Waukesha County Green Team
www.waukeshacountygreenteam.org

When Local Isn’t an Option, Look for Fair Trade Certified Products

When you support Fair Trade, you are supporting high quality goods, where producers receive a fair price in safe and healthy working conditions. Fair Trade is better for the environment, too, as it supports sustainable practices that minimize impact and encourage best practices. Easy-to-find Fair Trade items include coffee, tea, sugar and chocolate. Look for the Fair Trade symbol!



Thank You Elm Grove!

I am grateful for your vote of confidence.

I will endeavor to keep your trust by continuing to listen to all our residents, while making decisions in the Village’s best long-term interests.

Tom Michalski





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News Briefs



(Photo at center) A Goldfinch in a backyard feeder at the home of Karen Lloyd; (At right) the Elm Grove Village Park bird station.

Local Bird Enthusiasts Seek to Enhance Village’s ‘Bird City Wisconsin’ Status

How residents can become involved
By Karen Lloyd

Have you ever thought about what it means for Elm Grove to have the Bird City Wisconsin designation? The concept is modeled after the Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree City USA and was formulated during a 2003 meeting of the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative. Our village achieved this milestone through the efforts of our forester **Ron Hill** and **Ian Lefond**, an Eagle Scout, on August 11, 2011. The criteria necessary to meet the requirements are organized into six categories with more than 64 different achievements for earning points. These criteria range from habitat creation and protection to public education and the elimination of threats to birds, along with participation in World Migratory Bird Day (May 8 in 2021). A group of bird lovers

in our village now has a goal of achieving High Flyer status, an enhanced level of recognition which requires earning 20 points on the Bird City Wisconsin criteria specifications. So, what can you do to get involved as an Elm Grove resident? It could be as simple as reviewing the village website for information on what we can do for our feathered friends, to furthering the Audubon’s Plants for Birds Initiative, or getting active within the community to share your knowledge, interest or passion.

Now for the exciting news--- our local bird enthusiasts are organizing a team to compete in the upcoming Great Wisconsin Birdathon on Sunday, June 6! This program is intended to raise support

and awareness for birds in Wisconsin. Participation/donations can be made at www.wisconservation.org/birdathon. Just click “Get Involved” to register and join our team (team name is Elm Grove High Flyers). To make an optional contribution, click “Donate” to send in your chosen dollar amount by credit card or check. Team participants will meet at Elm Grove Park by the bird feeders outside the library entrance at 1 p.m. to take a leisurely walk around the park path, see how many different bird species we can identify and then submit our findings on the “eBird” app sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We have a 24-hour period to report bird sightings, so even those who cannot participate in the walk from 1-3

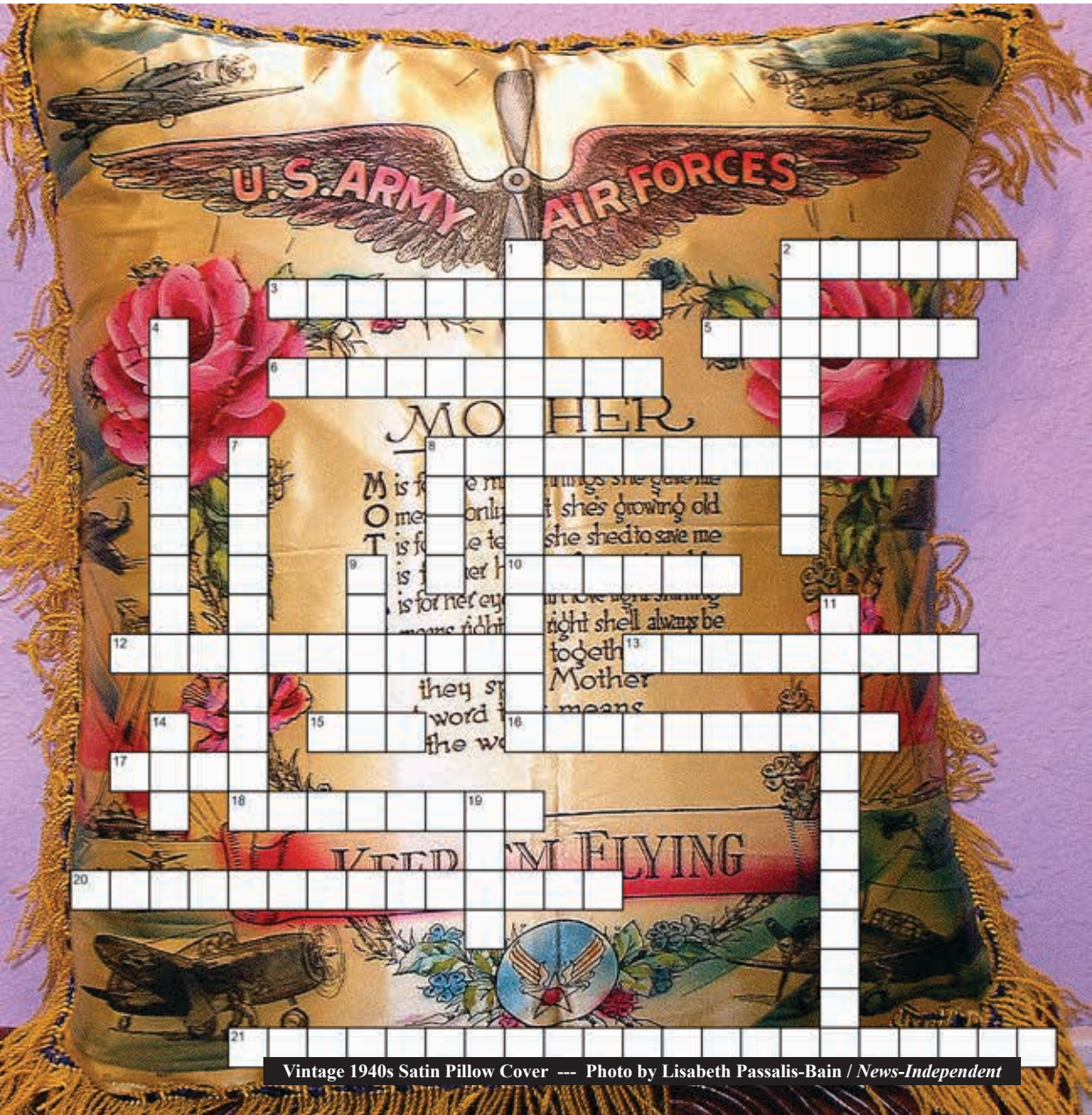
p.m. on June 6 can submit their input. The best part is that half of the money raised in donations for our team will come back to Elm Grove to support our own community bird conservation efforts. The other half of donations supports the Bird Protection Fund priority projects in Wisconsin.

If you would like to join our Birdathon team, please email **Karen Lloyd** at knlloyd78@gmail.com, or **Nicci Sternitzky**: EgBeautification@gmail.com

Sign up, grab your binoculars, put on your walking shoes, and come with us for a fun bird-watching walk around the park on June 6!

Community Crossword #12

By Lisabeth Passalis-Bain elmgrovenews@yahoo.com



ACROSS

- Recently elected Elmbrook School Board member Mushir _____
- Elm Grove roadway (no Stock Exchange there!) (2 words)
- Recently re-elected Elmbrook School Board member Jean _____
- Holiday celebrated on May 9th (2 words)
- Village committee that meets on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month (2 words)
- Elm Grove’s performing arts venue. “Entertainment begins at _____ Playhouse.”
- Remember and honor veterans on this May 31st occasion (2 words)
- Piece of equipment used to cut grass
- Elm Grove streets: _____ Barn Lane; _____ Fox Lane
- Elm Grove Woman’s Club’s May 15th event: _____ in the Grove”
- Elm Grove streets: _____ land Avenue; _____ lawn Circle; _____ side Lane
- Rodent with a long, bushy tail... likes nuts
- Local Post 449 veterans’ organization (2 words)
- Place in 53122 to borrow books, magazines, DVDs, etc. and do research (4 words)

DOWN

- She’s a recently elected, first-time Village Trustee (2 words)
- Assignments given to students for completion outside of the classroom
- Number of days in May (2 words)
- News-Independent’s* “Adopt a Pet” section (2 words)
- Very young child, infant
- Absence of war or conflict (“Give _____ a Chance!”)
- He’s an Elm Grove Trustee & a Waukesha County Supervisor (2 words)
- Short word for Mother
- Chickens lay these

SOLUTION: Page 11

Young Writers & Reporters

Paint Chip Poetry: Brookfield Academy Middle School students learned poetry elements with unique writing prompts. Students then wrote poems inspired by creative ideas such as paint chip colors, art, newspapers, book spines, and double meanings.

Sunset

By Alexander Kob, Brookfield Academy Middle School

I can feel the tough, pointy blades scratching my hands as
I climb
The soil slowly changes getting dryer and more grainy
Sweat covers my dirt-smearred chest and shorts
it will be worth jumping into the aquamarine abyss below

Finally Atop the hazardous hill
I am on the cliff’s edge excited, ready to jump
Into the aquamarine abyss below
It can feel the grainy sand under my toes
a little crab scurrying by

I can hear the ravaging waterfall nearby called Great Falls
the squawking of Seagulls nearby
I can see far out in the distance, a forest
The Great Falls was a great place to look out and see the distance
The sky was turning pink like raspberry cotton candy

And the sun, I stop to admire before I jump
The Amber orange sunset leaving the Horizon
For a moment I feel calm
all the noise and emotions were blocked from my mind
I felt mesmerized from the beauty of the blazing Amber semi-circle

I could almost reach out and touch the sun
I shifted my foot on the unstable sand, and it slipped
Falling off the cliff down into the Aquamarine Abyss
below
Splash!

Burning Bridges

By Katherine Bullio,
Brookfield Academy Middle School

Driving in pouring rain
I stop under a bridge.
Everything is silent, peaceful.
Drive away, and the rain hits harder than before.
You were my bridge.

Smell the sweet garden
Where love blossoms like a flower
For us, rain had too much power
You were my bridge.

As your hand held mine
the world felt fine
no storms raging in my heart.
You were my bridge.

The bridge of our song
Carried the second chorus and third verse
Now it’s gone
You took the pain out of refrain
yet I curse your name a thousand times.
You were my bridge.

Tears fall
Splish, splash
Transparent droplets of pain
bring up my past
Burning bridges let up in flame
Knowing I’ll never see you again

After the War

By Bilal Khraisat, Brookfield Academy Middle School

I feel the soft chilly wind brushing against my face.
The snowflakes gently resting on my hand as I hold it out.
The joy of being back starts to cover up the pain
of the war.
Free at last

I hear the giggling of the children throwing balls of snow,
the crunching of snow for each step,
the cars whirring by.
Free at last.

Imagining my brother’s big smile while on the boardwalk.
Remembering the happy times.
His legacy lives on through me.
But here I am, free at last

I smell the fresh air of the park,
But the smoke from the war still lingers in my nose.
Free at last.

I see the road go on for what seems like infinity.
A never ending amount of cars and people.
Endless stories, and endless opportunity.
I see the smiles on faces which I haven’t seen for years.
Free at last.

I taste the snow so vividly as if it is in my mouth.
I remember tasting the food that took a year
to get used to.
Free at last

Admiring the beauty,
I see nothing but my future ahead of me.
There’s unlimited potential.
Free at last.

Interview with My Mom

By Adriana Sayas, Grade 6, Homeschool

*What did you like to do with your grandparents when you were little?

I liked to help my maternal grandmother plant tulip bulbs and bake cinnamon rolls. We liked to play cards together, and I helped her prepare envelopes for my Grandfather’s business. My maternal grandfather loved to play football and croquet with us in the backyard. He also drove a horse-drawn sleigh for my siblings and I and our cousins to ride in. My paternal grandparents liked to have outdoor meals with us, go fishing and tell us stories. I had the great blessing of having met all of my great-grandparents as a child and having some memories of each of them. I remember sitting on my great-grandmother’s lap in the rocking chair. I remember playing croquet, going on hay rides behind my great-grandpa’s tractor (that he drove into his 80s!), and feeding the barn kittens. I remember helping my great-grandma bake cookies and make soup while my dad, great-grandfather and uncles bailed hay.

*What was your favorite animal? Why?

Horses. I always liked them, but when I was a teenager my uncle bought 2 wild mustangs from Nevada during a time of severe draught. We watched him train them and helped as they became gentler. We rode like cowboys and often galloped through the back farm fields. It felt like flying!

*What games did you play with your sibling?

We loved to play outside. We went sledding, ice skating, and biking. We built giant homes for baby toads.

*What did you play with your cousins?

I had 32 first cousins on my mom’s side of the family. We celebrated every Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation together. We were together for all holidays and for my grandparents’ wedding anniversaries. We especially liked to play dolls, make forts in the woods, play pioneers, catch crayfish in the creek, and to go snowmobiling together.

Mother’s Day

By Penny Saidai

4th Grade -Tonawanda

Cleaning the living room,
Walking the dog,
Mom you do everything,
From cooking to love.
No one else can be like you,
So this is your day
Mom, I love you
From day to night.

My Mom

By Colton Evenson

4th Grade -Tonawanda

My mom’s job is a speech therapist that is with Covid-19 patients. She works at Froedtert and with all she’s been through she’s always helped at the house. With two kids, a baby, and a husband she handles herself well. Everyday, she comes home and tells us what she did at the dinner table to me and my sister (I’m a brother) and it’s really interesting. She went through a divorce, and we were alone for a while but then she met somebody. His name is JP and they got married and they have been married for 2 years. And I couldn’t ask for a better family, especially my mom.

Memorial Day

By Nora Schneider & Frances Paradis

4th Grade - Tonawanda

Memorial Day is the day we honor the veterans that have died serving for our country. Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving for the United States Armed Forces. The Memorial Day parade helps celebrate the meaning, too. Memorial Day lets you know why we have a great country, and the only way we have a great country is because we have the veterans.

Spring

By Abby Fisher, 4th Grade - Tonawanda

Spring is beautiful.
Spring is warm.
Spring is the best.
Spring is when the flowers start to bloom.
Spring is the start of Summer.
Spring is when kids are outside more.
Spring is the beginning of May.
Spring is when the trees start to grow their leaves back.
Spring is the time when kids will be running around the neighborhood.
Spring is here at last.

Springtime

By Stella Williams

Tonawanda Elementary School, 4th Grade

Flowers are blooming everywhere,
While tree buds are popping
high in the air.
Days grow longer,
Nights grow shorter.
Animals come out of hiding
from under the trees,
And birds are singing in the highest
branches of those same trees.
The cold weather is becoming warm,
And children play outside without snow
pants and snow boots.
But the very best part is that people
are happier.
Spring causes joy, and the winter is over!

Moms

By Noah, Grant and Cole

4th Grade - Tonawanda

Moms are amazing
They clean up the mess.
They help us with our homework when
everyone is resting
They do everything to get it done
They cook dinner till everyone’s full
They help us with sprained ankles
till it’s better
We thank you *moms everywhere!*

Controlled

By Addyson Wenger and Leah Scharringhausen

Brookfield Academy Middle School

Controlled
I do not feel
Hope
I will never be told it isn’t right to
Be told what to think,
No one could tell me it’s normal to
Be as free as a bird
For I will always
Be trapped like a mouse by a cat
Never will I let myself
Feel that freedom is real,
It isn’t wrong to
Submit to tyranny
I can not
Stand up,
I will
Keep my head down
I will never
Resist
I will always
Tame like a rabbit
I will refuse to be
Free.
Free

Chances

By Camden Pifel

Brookfield Academy Middle School

I rolled a dice for the win today.
A one would cause me to lose.
Chances were in my favor yet I still got
a bruise.
The one came up.
This week I had to spin a colored wheel,
And I was confident I wouldn’t fail.
It could set me in the right direction.
It could cause me to prevail.
It didn’t do that.
I had failed again.
This year I decided to take a chance
at improving my life,
But that was as rare as a hole in one.
My life won’t be perfect,
But the chances I have give me hope.

Young Writers

(Continued from Page 9)

Interview: Olivia Barnes

By Lucia Sayas, Grade 4, Homeschool

***When did you join the military?** On April 20, 2018

***When were you born?** On June 3, 1999

***What do you like best about the military?** I get to meet a lot of people.

***How did you choose to join?** I thought it would be a good experience.

***What was your biggest challenge?**
Boot camp! I did not have a phone and could not talk with my family for 2 months.

***What does Memorial Day mean to you?**
It is a day to be thankful for the people who have been in the military and that they make us free.

Interview with Mary Soto

By Gwenthth Sayas, Grade 3, Homeschool

***How many children did you have?**
Two boys

***What did they like to play?**
Baseball and football

***What was your favorite thing to do when you were little?**
Play ball, bike and play with dolls

***What is your favorite way to paint?**
I like watercolor.

***What is your favorite color?** Pink

***What does Memorial Day mean to you?**
I am glad to be an American and to have such great people to fight for me.

May
By Samantha Peterson
4th Grade - Tonawanda

It's May!
It's May!
It's such a beautiful day!
Yay!
It's May!
Come out and play!
Today is the first day in May!
Hurray!
It's May!

Spring Wind
By Amelia Harmelink
4th grade - Tonawanda

Spring wind is daring.
Whispering, whistling, against your ear
Calming. Caring.

Spring wind is fearless.
Soaring across the sky, never afraid.
Fast. Ferocious.

Spring wind is soothing.
Lapping against your face,
like waves on a beach.
Brave. Beautiful.

May
By Cailin Hagemeier
4th Grade – Tonawanda

Moms, Mothers, Grandmas, too.
Flowers here, Chocolates there,
Carpool, Massages, Hair, Face care.

Memorial Day
Hip hip hooray to soldiers and parade
It's their day.

Valuable Lessons Learned at BCHS Key Club

By Alina Grimaldo – Brookfield Central, Senior

Throughout my four years of high school, I have been very dedicated to our school’s Key Club. Our school leads one of the largest Key Clubs in the state, providing volunteers for any events in our community in need of help. As the years have gone by, my love for service grew and I aspired for a bigger role in the club. Throughout my high school career, I have served as a general member, an Executive Board member, and after three years of hard work and dedication, I now serve as a Key Club Co-President.

Key Club is unique as it creates a community where people of all different backgrounds come together to help those in need. Some of the events that we provide include: tutoring for refugee students, donations for food pantries, fundraisers for local charities, garbage clean-up days, and countless more opportunities. I have learned very valuable lessons from my experience through this club. I have obtained great social and leadership skills and I have made lifelong friends. I have learned to be grateful for the little things in life and to appreciate the people around you.

I am so proud of the work that our club does and I am more than grateful to be able to work with such compassionate and hardworking people every day.

BCHS Key Club Positively Impacts Community

By Jana M Gharia – Brookfield Central, Junior

When I entered high school, I did not really know what clubs I should get involved in and how I could make a positive impact on my community, but I felt like Key Club might be a good fit for me. I didn’t really know what to expect from Key Club, but I saw that everyone involved with the organization was passionate about service and Key Club had so many great service projects to offer. Once I started volunteering with Key Club it truly opened my eyes to incredible people and service, and because of that I chose to further my involvement with the club by applying to get involved with the higher levels of the organization.

Key Club truly has changed my life because of the opportunities it has brought me and the connections I have made through service. One example of this is, Key Club introduced me to The Gathering, which is an organization that has meal sites throughout Wisconsin. At The Gathering we make and serve hot meals to those in need, and we go about each month to help this organization. Before COVID, the meal guests would be served inside of the building and we were able to have conversations with them, and every single time the meal program director, **Natalee**, would remind us to treat the meal guests like guests in our own home and that every person deserves a hot meal. Her words stick with me and events like The Gathering truly showed me what service was and the impact that it has on individuals.

I would never have been able to attend so many different and amazing service events without Key Club, and the impact this one incredible organization has had on my life will stick with me for the rest of my life.

Legal Issues

What Documents Will Your Family Need?

By Attorney Isabell Mueller

After you pass away, your surviving family members will need to gather many of your personal and financial records in order to settle your affairs. Keeping these documents organized and accessible is important for both you and your loved ones. Your filing system doesn’t need to be elaborate, just organized. Your family will need the following documents when the time comes:

- List of Funeral Instructions and prepaid funeral contracts
- Last Will and Testament
- Revocable/Living Trust agreements
- Prenuptial/postnuptial agreements
- VA File Number, Military discharge paper
- Birth certificate and Death Certificate
- Marriage license or Divorce Decree
- Medicare Card/Health Insurance Card
- Bank statements, checkbooks, check registers, certificates of deposits
- Safe deposit rental agreement and keys

- Deeds, mortgages, leases, homeowner’s insurance information
- Stock and bond certificates and account statement
- Pension, IRA, retirement statements/current employee benefit information
- Life insurance policies or statements
- Last several years’ income tax returns
- Documentation regarding any debts, such as auto loans or credit cards

It is not necessary to give copies of these documents to anyone during your lifetime, but they should be easily accessible in the event of your death. The information should also be kept reasonably current.

Lastly, if you maintain important information on your computer, or have social media accounts, leave instructions regarding username and password information. Not having this information can cost both time and money. Maintaining organized personal and financial records is one of the best gifts you can give your family.

Spring
By Emmanuella Schmidt
4th Grade -Tonawanda

Flowers blooming
Rain is falling
Children playing
Having fun
Eat some Buns
Go to the beach
Play ball
Jump around
Wear some shorts
Now we know that Spring is here!

May
By Molly Swain, 4th Grade -Tonawanda

May is sprouting, no one’s pouting. People are enjoying the spring breeze! You know that April showers bring May flowers and I hope that is true. My birthday is in May and it is so beautiful on my birthday because everything sprouts. This year Lucille is turning 10 years old. May is full of flowers and that is why it showers! So happy Mother’s Day and Happy Memorial Day to everyone!

COVID-19 Clinics (Continued from Page 1)

Between the end of January and the end of April, we held 12 community vaccination clinics. Including the Village First Responders who were initially vaccinated, the Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics administered almost 1000 immunizations of the 2-dose Pfizer vaccine. Vaccinations were dispensed by the EG-EMS nurses, paramedics, and doctor. **Jennifer Morris** rallied the administrative and logistical support of both the EGWC and the Boy Scouts. Thirty-two members of the EGWC provided vaccine registration and staffing for the clinics. Village staff members **Brian Naylor** and **Greg Mehring** disinfected the rooms following each clinic. Under the leadership of Scout Master **John Kuenzle** and assistants **Mark Ehlinger** and **Rob King**, dozens of scouts from Boy Scouts of America Troop 156, managed the setup and breakdown of tables and chairs for every clinic.

Several of the volunteers expressed their opinions. **Sara Megal** shared, “I



was honored to participate with the caring community of nurses and doctors in providing a safe and comforting environment while administering the COVID-19 vaccine.” **Ursula Raad** noted, “I’ve been a resident of Elm Grove for 25 years and it is my duty to serve my community. I love being a member of the Woman’s Club and think everyone should join”. **Karla Florance** said, “It fills me up. The volunteers are a joy to work with and the people coming in were a joy to help”.

We are all so grateful to be a part of such a caring and community-minded village.

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News Briefs

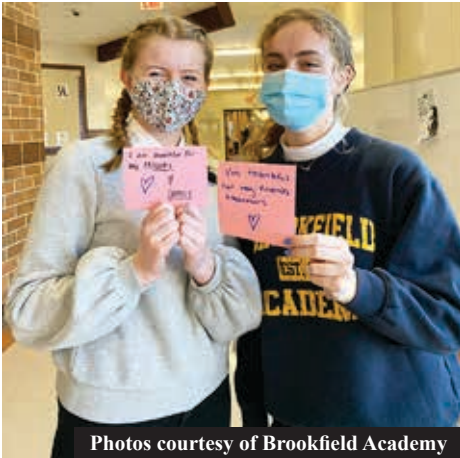
Brookfield Academy Student Inspires Positivity

By Marie O'Brien

“Gratitude is contagious,” said Anneke Zaiser, when she was asked recently about the lessons learned during a student initiative called “The Gratitude Box.” A junior at Brookfield Academy, Anneke took a simple concept, and with the help of the Upper School student council, inspired classmates to spread positivity during this year of change and challenges.

The idea of creating a space where students could share their moments of gratefulness, came up while Anneke was talking to her mom. “Gratitude was the one thing we decided will always bring light to 2020 and 2021,” Anneke said. Not long after that conversation, a box, along with colorful pieces of paper and markers, appeared in the high school lobby and the gratitude sharing began. Students wrote down their thoughts, put their slip of paper into the box, and the papers were posted around the school. “I am grateful for YOU,” read one; “I am grateful for my laptop so I can skype my parents in China,” read another; and one even prompted some laughs as it poked a bit of fun at a teacher’s enthusiasm for *King Lear*.

“I loved seeing my school covered in colorful slips of paper,” Anneke said. “I found it interesting how many individual names were placed in the box by other



Photos courtesy of Brookfield Academy

Brookfield Academy Upper School students share what they are grateful for as part of the Gratitude Box project.

students; it showed me just how much we appreciate each other.”

As Brookfield Academy students reflected on a most unusual year of social distancing, reimagined classrooms, and masked faces in the hallways, Anneke said one message resonated: “The idea of how easy it is to change your day...and it’s fun to be a part of something bigger than yourself, especially when it positively impacts everyone in the community!”



Photo courtesy: Elmbrook Rotary Club

Serenity Inns Alumni Gathering.

Elmbrook Rotary Supports Serenity Inns

By Larry W. Myers

Serenity Inns was one of many charitable organizations that received a “Mini-Grant” from Elmbrook Rotary Club in 2020-2021. Annually, Elmbrook Rotary distributes more than \$80,000 in mini-grants and scholarships throughout the greater Milwaukee area and overseas.

Serenity Inns addresses an unmet community need for residential treatment for men who are recovering from addiction and who have no insurance or funds to pay for treatment. They provide support for mind, body and spirit.

The goal is to provide them with the support and accountability they need to rebuild their lives and to become self-sufficient, contributing members of the community. The need for this program is demonstrated by statistics attesting to the rising rate of opioid addiction along with an ever-present and growing waiting list.

All of the men served by Serenity Inns are battling addictions. They are typically between the ages of 18 and 55; they have an addiction to heroin/opiates, cocaine, or alcohol; and they are without the ability to pay for treatment. They must complete detox before arriving at Serenity Inns due to the possible medical complications that detox entails. Nearly 100% of the men served at Serenity Inns have a history of incarceration.

Serenity Inns’ main program is the residential Recovery Program, which is supplemented by the Alumni House independent living program and the Outpatient Program. Together, the programs annually serve approximately 100 persons.

For the second year in a row, Serenity Inns was recently awarded “Best in Milwaukee” by the *Shepherd Express* in the Alcohol & Drug Rehab Center category.



Letters to the Editor

- Letters regarding issues of concern to the Elm Grove / Elmbrook / Waukesha County community will be considered for publication on a space available basis.
- Submissions (max: 250 words) must include the writer’s name, community & phone #
- Mail to: EGNI, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 372, Elm Grove, WI 53122-0372.
- E-mail: elmgrovenews@yahoo.com (subject line: Letters to the Editor)

Recent Village Trustee Candidate Seeks to Clarify Information in Pre-Election *Journal Sentinel* Article

Elm Grove News-Independent Readers,

My name is John DenBoer. I am originally from Waukesha and my wife (from Brookfield) and I were fortunate enough to move to Elm Grove this past year, along with our young son.

The purpose of this piece is to provide clarity on an article that was written about me in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (MJS) that implied that I surrendered my Psychology license in Arizona due to unethical practice, which was published right before the Trustee election. The allegations contained in the article are very far from the truth. I did give up my license in anticipation of our family making a final decision to reside in Wisconsin permanently.

I entered into a *voluntary, no-fault* consent agreement to voluntarily surrender my license in December

of 2020. Surrendering one’s license when moving is a common regulatory requirement; what was unique in my situation was that various false complaints had been levied by a former investor aimed at retaliation over a business dispute. To be clear, I did not admit to any fault and the Board did not find any fault.

I was disappointed to see this represented the way it was in the MJS without the context I just provided. I can understand that people take great pride in their civic positions and want ethical people leading their community. Nevertheless, these types of lies are unnecessary and unfairly demean myself and my family and, if allowed to perpetuate, diminish the quality of our civil dialogue and Village as a whole.

Thank you.
John DenBoer
Elm Grove

Classifieds

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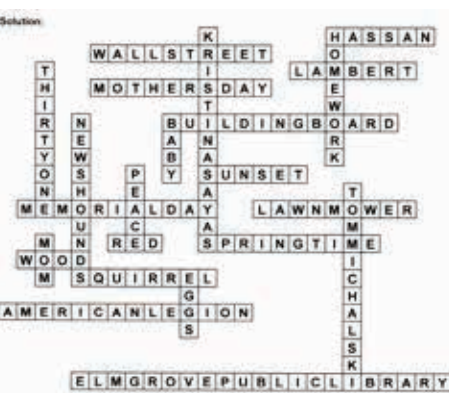
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SUNSET PLAYHOUSE RE-OPENS WITH CONCERT FEATURING GREATEST HITS OF CARLY AND KAREN

SUNSET PLAYHOUSE is pleased to re-open its doors for the first time since March 2020 with a special concert featuring **KERRY HART BIENEMAN**. The program, which pays tribute to superstars **CARLY SIMON** and **KAREN CARPENTER**, will be presented on **May 22 and 23, 2021** in the Furlan Auditorium. Titled **KERRY SINGS CARLY & KAREN**, the show also includes guitarist **CASEY OLSON**, drummer **TIM KARTH**, and writer/narrator **PEGGY PETERSON RYAN**.

Carly Simon and Karen Carpenter have each received multiple awards and are widely recognized as two of the best female vocalists in the history of pop music. Drawing on the extensive repertoires of both, the show will feature chart-topping songs such as "You're So Vain," "We've Only Just Begun," "Anticipation," and "Yesterday Once More."

KERRY HART BIENEMAN (Music Director, pianist, vocalist) received a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from Northwestern University and served as a voice professor at Carthage College and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. For the past several years she has been Music Director for Sunset's popular Musical MainStage Concert Series. CASEY OLSON (guitar, vocals) is well-known to audiences in Southeastern Wisconsin and received his Bachelor of Fine Art in Finger-Style Guitar from UWM's Peck School of the Arts. TIM KARTH (drums, vocals) holds a B.S. in Music Education from Carroll University and is in demand as a multi-instrumentalist and arranger through BtW Productions. PEGGY PETERSON RYAN (writer/narrator, vocals), also a Carroll graduate, is familiar to Sunset audiences from her many appearances with the Musical MainStage concert series and as producer of the popular SideNotes Cabarets.

In keeping with current health department recommendations, Sunset Playhouse has created extensive guidelines for the safety of our patrons, performers, volunteers, and staff. These guidelines will be in effect until future notice and details are available on Sunset's website, sunsetplayhouse.com.

Performances of **KERRY SINGS CARLY & KAREN** are Saturday, May 22 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, May 23 at 2:00 PM.

Tickets for this special event will be available online at sunsetplayhouse.com beginning May 1, 2021. Beginning May 4, 2021, the box office will be open Tuesday through Friday from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. To reserve tickets by phone, call 262-782-4430. For group sales, contact Stephanie at 262-782-4431, ex. 291. Sunset Playhouse is located at 800 North Elm Grove Road in Elm Grove, WI.

